

Clinical Guidelines Team
National Health and Medical Research Council
Via email - clinicalguidelines@nhmrc.gov.au

16 December 2021

Dear Clinical Guidelines Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) is the only peak body in Australia that represents all health professionals working in all fields of respiratory health. The Society's mission is to lead, support and enable all health workers and researchers who aim to prevent, cure and relieve disability caused by lung disease.

TSANZ has a membership base of approximately 1800 individual members from a wide range of health and research disciplines. TSANZ is a leading provider of evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of respiratory disease in Australia and New Zealand. TSANZ undertakes a large amount of professional education and training, is responsible for significant research administration, and coordinates an accredited respiratory laboratory program.

Please find below the Society's comments regarding the NHMRC *Guidelines for Guidelines* Consultation.

Selecting studies and data extraction:

The TSANZ note the need to carefully evaluate and identify studies with overlapping patient populations has not been covered. This is particularly important for observational studies, as multiple studies may be published using the same study population or different subsets from the same study population. The reviewers should specify how they will prioritise and select studies with overlapping patient populations to avoid bias with double counting.

The TSANZ recommend the utilisation of prospectively embedding implementation and impact research into guideline development and funding. We urge the NHMRC to consider review by implementation scientists as mention of their frameworks (e.g. CFIR, RE-AIM) may prove useful, and embedding this type of research into guideline development would be a valuable step to inform data frameworks.

Guideline impact:

The document has nicely detailed the concepts and importance of measuring guideline impacts. The TSANZ recommend incorporating case studies or examples of the process of defining outcomes (e.g. the use of a Delphi process). In addition to selecting outcomes that are measurable, other features should also be considered, including comparability (an outcome that can be used to compare across geographic areas and across time), validity and reliability, and understandability (easy to interpret with no ambiguity as to whether performance has improved or deteriorated).

The TSANZ places great importance on clinical documents process, outcomes, and implementation and we are pleased to respond to this consultation. If any further information is required, please don't hesitate to contact me on +61 2 9222 6200 or via programs@thoracic.org.au.

Yours sincerely,



Doctor Yet Khor
Co-Chair, Clinical Care and Resources Subcommittee